

Contents

News

- DMJ Updates
- Carrie Greer
- Women's Retreat
- Library Giveaway
- Election Update

Opinions

- GOP Debate
- Workout For Your Brain
- YA Books
- Flint Water Crisis

Features

- Master of None
- Athlete Commission
- The Sword of Summer
- Star Wars Title
- This Star Won't Go Out

Sports

- Softball
- Baseball
- Track
- Tennis
- Basketball

Back Page

- Creative Corner

Have a comment on one of our articles? Write a letter to the editor! Email responses, rebuttals, and commentaries to Co-Editors-in-Chief, Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu to have them published in our next issue!

Dead Air: WPUM Faces Technical Difficulties

By Josh D. Alengo
News Writer

While students finished up their winter vacations, Saint Joseph's College radio station, 93.3FM, WPUM "The Joe", encountered some catastrophic misfortune. A feed line was severed, disabling the radio station to operate.

The radio station lies adjacent to the Computer Center and the SJC-stamped water tower. Over the break, the tower sprung a leak. The leaking water froze into icicles, and on Wednesday, January 6th, they cracked and fell, severing a very important piece of radio transmitting equipment: a feed line connecting the radio station to the transmitter. Without this, it's impossible for the radio station to broadcast anything. The situation presents a variety of implications for any students or faculty involved in WPUM.

Perhaps most unfortunate is the fact that the radio station had just received a variety of equipment upgrades in the form of computers and software within the radio station. The Observer was able to speak with WPUM's General Manager and DMJ professor, Sally Berger, in order to gain insight into the dilemma.

Berger explained that the biggest problem here is that 93.3FM is currently defunct, but that brings a list of new problems. Most importantly, DMJ majors need to clock in lab hours for credits. At the moment, none of those students have been able to do that, and Berger wants to avoid having to force them all to register for new classes, which aren't very feasible this far into the semester. Berger pointed out

that "Starting Monday [Feb. 1st], all the students have to come to their scheduled air shifts, whether we're on the air or not...I've got people in radio lab getting credit, I've got people with performance scholarships getting money, and I've got to put them to work." While Berger does not have an estimated date for when we can all expect to hear The Joe on the air again, she expressed her sincere regret that the station is in such a condition, but she was simultaneously excited to show off the new equipment and software that the station recently acquired. She wanted students to know that "We're working very hard to get this fixed as soon as possible. Thank you to all our listeners. I will send an all-campus email as soon as the repair is completed."

Not all the news is bad, though, and Berger was very enthusiastic about the new technology. Since 2005, WPUM has been running software known as

Master Control, developed by a company called RCS. While this software has, more or less, done the job since its introduction here over a decade ago, an upgrade was overdue. Luckily, RCS has newer software, called Zetta, that does what Master Control did, only better, and it works in tandem with another piece of software, known as GSelector. These programs work together to catalog and schedule the music listeners hear on 93.3FM. Berger has been training students in the new software since the semester began, and she adds, "The DJs at The Joe are so excited to work with state-of-the-art radio automation software. They're eager to get back on the air to continue their rapport with our audience."

Finally, the audio editing software provided for student use in the related Audio Production classes has received a significant update. In the past, Berger has taught the classes using Sony

Vegas, an audio/video editing program from nearly a decade ago. While Fred Berger's TV studio has seen integration of the industry standard AVID Media Composer for video editing, the radio station was left behind. That's now a problem of the past, though, as WPUM is now equipped with ProTools, the industry standard audio editing software. Starting this semester, students involved in the audio production classes will be taught using the software the professionals use.

In closing, Sally Berger wanted to state the following: "On behalf of myself and the DJs at 93.3, The Joe, we give our heartfelt, sincere thanks to the Student Association (SA) for generously giving WPUM the money to complete the purchase of our new software and hardware for the radio station. Without the SA, I couldn't have bought this equipment."



Damage caused by melting ice falling off of SJC's water tower causing SJC's radio station, WPUM, to be temporarily off air. Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College.

SJC Welcomes Carrie Greer

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

One of the biggest problems on college campuses is sexual assault and domestic violence. The Rape Abuse and Incest National Network says, "Women 18-24 who are enrolled in college are 3 times more likely than women in general to suffer from sexual violence. Females of the same age who are not enrolled in college are 4 times more likely. Male college aged students are 78% more likely than nonstudents to be a victim of rape or sexual assault. Female college aged students are 20% less likely than nonstudents to be a victim of rape or sexual assault."

Only 20% of female student survivors age 18-24 report to law enforcement. In comparison, 33% of female nonstudent survivors aged 18-24 report to law en-

forcement. 72% of campus law enforcement agencies have a staff member responsible for survivor response and assistance. 8% of all sexual assaults occur while victim is attending school."

This semester has brought many new exciting changes.

One big change this semester is a new addition to the Puma Family: Carrie Greer. She is the Campus Program Project Coordinator, a position created because of the Office for Violence Prevention Against Women grant from the Department of Justice that The College received in October. Greer has some big plans for the Saint Joseph's College. Her main focus is to help prevent violence against women both on campus and in the community. There is a special program for the community called Coordinated Community Response (CCR). The goal of

this program is to reduce sexual assault through prevention, education, and awareness, and establish effective interventions and policy for victim support services. Carrie will be focused on uniting our campus efforts with the surrounding community to create a comprehensive community response for victims of sexual assault. Her other role on campus is to provide guidance and advocacy for any victims of sexual assault.

Greer did her undergraduate years at Ball State University. Later, Greer received her Master's degree in Human Behavior from Valparaiso University. Greer then began work at the Police Academy where she performed administrative and teaching duties.

Her favorite part of joining the Puma community so far is the students. She says, "Everyone is so nice and friendly!" Lately,

colleges across the United States have been taking a greater interest in sexual assault prevention. When asked, Greer said, "My impression is that the issue hasn't been given enough credit in the past. Our college has taken a large interest in sexual prevention."

On her plans for the future of Saint Joseph's College, she said, "Our goal is to provide services through education, prevent violence on campus, and improve campus and community life. Some of our new plans contain LED lights and cameras around campus." Greer says, "I have an open door policy and my office in Halleck Center, room 201. I can also be reached by anyone needing to talk by email at cgreer@saintjoe.edu or by phone at 219-424-0072."

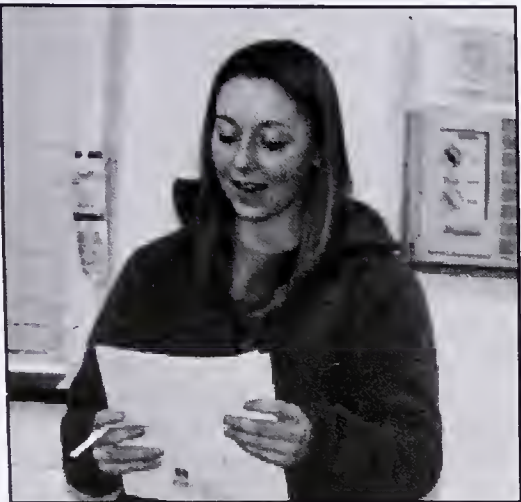
Campus Ministry Plans Day of Reflection for SJC Women

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

On Saturday February 6, 2016, Campus Ministry will host a women's retreat from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at Saint Joseph's College. Located in the Gaspar Center, its purpose will be to allow the women who attend to share thoughts and experiences on a deeper and more personal level.

Tony Butler, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, will be accompanying the women on the retreat. He says that it will focus on mercy and give lessons on how to be merciful and practice mercy as well. He also has some goals in mind for the women to accomplish and hopes they will be able to use what they learn in their daily lives. "I want them to feel empowered to share experiences and to be comfortable with speaking up," Butler says.

Circle discussion groups have been used as a way to go about achieving these goals and purposes. The idea came from Sister Donna Liette, C.P.P.S., who works with the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. Liette will be running the retreat. Both Butler and Senior Elementary Education major, Kate Hickner, who has attended the retreat in the past and will be a part of



Left: Senior Elementary Education Major, Kate Hickner, reads at a past women's retreat hosted by Campus Ministry. This year, a women's retreat will be held on February 6, 2016 in The Gaspar Center from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The retreat will be lead by Sister Donna Liette, CPPS. Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College

this retreat, agree that "circle time" is a good way to bond and connect with everyone there. While this concept may be difficult to understand at first, it is an important technique that helps this retreat immensely, and those who go will have a better understanding of how it works. Kate also brings up the fact that this retreat will create positive, good discussions.

"From past trips, I can say that I've gained more self-awareness and have become closer to God," Hickner adds as she remembers the times she has spent on many retreats in past years. Another aspect she really enjoyed was getting to know many new faces and friends: "You get to meet new

people, and it's also a diverse group of women. There's the chance to know more about people you never knew very well or those you only see as you pass them on campus," she says.

The women's retreat may only happen once a year, but it is open to all women in the community, so everyone can be involved. In order to be involved with events like the in the future, just send an email or inform campus ministry. "Everyone should go," Kate adds about the retreat, "It won't be an experience you would want to miss." To sign up for the retreat, or if you have any questions, please email Tony Butler.

SJC Library Creates Program to Promote Student Involvement

By Ana Lara
News Writer

There's a Facebook page for everything! Saint Joseph's College Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library has a Facebook page that is readily available to become part of your social media life. The page includes pictures of events, the library schedule, important articles, and now includes new giveaways!

In order to create more buzz about the page and get students more involved in what the library has to offer, the Library has begun a Facebook giveaway program. The program was created by Kyra Clark, the Evening Circulation Desk Assistant.

Clark said, "I started the Facebook giveaways to gain more awareness of our Facebook page. The library is here to service the students, and to do that to the best of our ability, we need students to be aware of what services we offer and get feedback from them. The easiest way to do that is through social media."

The giveaway program is an incentive to gain awareness of the Facebook Page and the Library itself. You can enter into the giveaways just by liking the

Facebook page; this automatically enters your name into the drawing.

Almost every week, a winner is selected and will receive an email alerting them to come and pick up his or her prize. Prizes include cash and care packages. To be eligible to win, you must be a current Saint Joseph's College student.

Besides providing students with information and helpful articles, the Facebook page is also a forum for students and staff to give their feedback or suggestions of ways to better the library.

The Facebook Library page also informs students of the many services it offers such as inter-library loans, laptop rentals and much more. The page also aims to help circulate information about events on campus by sharing posts about upcoming events. Social media is one of the best ways to connect students to their school and the Library Facebook page is just one more way to connect the Puma community to the services available to them.

The facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/saintjoelibrary/>.



Left: Kyra Clark, the evening circulation desk assistant, desinger of the Library Facebook Page Giveaway. To have your name entered into the drawing, you must be a current SJC student and "like" the Saint Joseph's College Library Facebook page. Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Library.

2016 Election Update: Trump and the Power of Persuasion



By Jose Arteaga
Political Columnist

Donald Trump has been the leading Republican candidate for President of the United States election since he announced his candidacy in June of 2015. When Donald Trump announced his candidacy, he made national headlines. However, the headlines did not read "Trump is Running for President;" they read "Trump insults Latinos during speech."

During his first speech as a candidate, Trump insulted Mexicans by saying that they are "criminals, rapists, and up to no good." Mexicans were not the only people that he has insulted: Muslims, women, African Americans, homosexuals, prisoners of war, and the disabled. That is a big portion of the United States population. However, Trump is still the number one GOP candidate.

One reason why Trump is doing so well is because he is a master in persuasion. Trump is persuasive because he is not trying to be persuasive as a politician normally does. According to an article by Russell Granger, "Trump is activating what in neurological terms are referred to as emotional triggers, which the brain uses to avoid the energy and difficulty of analytical thinking." Trump is the perfect candidate to use as an example because he can go out and rant about smallest things, and he does this because he knows people will

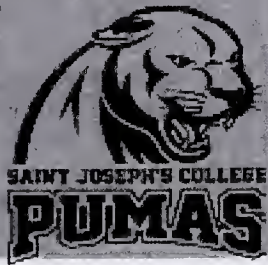
listen. Trump even often says things that people are concerned about. According to a Gallup poll, the "Washington Culture" is the second most important issue in the 2016 campaign that voters want to change. Trump is a Washington outsider, and he is not a politician. Trump is the kind of person that people want to back because people are fed up with career politicians and people from Washington. This is also not a new trend that we are seeing. In 2012, Herman Cain was a leading figure in the Republican party and was very close in the polls to Governor Romney. Ross Perot also had a strong backing of voters in the 90s. Even today, some Democrats are looking at Bernie Sanders as an alternative because Hillary Clinton is a career politician.

The 2016 election so far has taught me so many things about people and political behavior: Voters want change in this country; they want new people to be in charge. They want people from outside of Washington to take charge. That is why Donald Trump is doing so well—he is echoing what the voters want. Voters also want people that can speak their mind. Donald Trump is also one of those individuals. Despite making terrible attacks on people of this country and around the world, a lot of voters see him as someone who is progressive and that can bring change to Washington. The election season is still going, and Trump is still rising in the polls.

Upcoming Puma Events!

- February 6 - Campus Ministry Women's Retreat
- February 13- Science Olympiad
- February 14 - Bystander Intervention Faciliator Training
- February 14-15 - Admissions Overnight
- February 17 - Student Association Meeting

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Kylie Hill at
khw10051@saintjoe.edu or
Casey Snow at
csnow@saintjoe.edu!



Are YA Books Too Intense?

By: Kertney Bronzyna
Opinions Writer

This semester, I am in a Young Adult Literature class. The books we are reading range from novels to graphic novels. It is a great variety, and the books are really interesting. Because the books we are reading are for young adults (ages 12 through 18), you would think that the topics in these novels would be very laid back and innocent. But, these are young adults. Teenagers. Many teens are going through more than what meets the eye.

When I was younger, I read young adult novels to escape reality and feel a connection to whatever crisis the protagonist was involved in. I believe many teens crave to read about other people that are going through similar situations that they are. Teenagers feel alone in their situations all the time. In order to feel some comfort, I believe that young adults read young adult literature to connect with characters. If the novel the teen was reading did not have an extreme issue involving the protagonist, the novel would no longer be of interest to many teens. That bond between the reader and the protagonist is very important.

I believe that every young adult novel should reflect a controversial issue. It could be about race, sexism, or social class. I believe the novel should show how he/ she is struggling with the issue and how he/ she overcomes that situation. I believe it is important to show that these real-life situations do happen and are happening right now. If we do not show it in young adult novels, the reader will continue to feel like he/ she is alone in the situation they are dealing with.

Even though a novel is dealing with a harsh topic, I do not think it should be ignored. I believe that a young adult book could include these controversial topics, but it does not always have to be a completely negative novel (that would be emotionally exhausting). However, I believe these issues could be involved in the book in a light-hearted way for teens that are towards the 12-year-old range. When it starts becoming more of a novel for older teens, I think the issues could be in a more real-life perspective. I do not believe that having the controversial issues in a novel is too much for a young adult to handle.

Thursday’s GOP Debate

By: Stephen Nickel
Opinions Writer

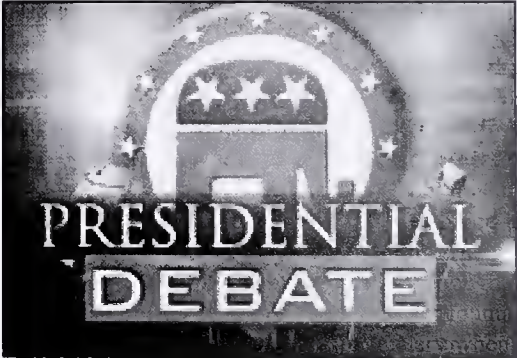
This past Thursday the GOP held the last debate before the infamous Iowa caucus, the official start of the primary season. The big shocker about this debate was that The Donald decided that he would continue his feud with Megyn Kelly and Fox News. So instead of showing up to the debate, he held his own event for veterans on CNN in an effort to tank the debate ratings. While this ploy did work – this debate was the second lowest in ratings – he did not succeed in getting higher ratings for his event. However, with Trump not in the debate it allowed for other candidates to

shine or fall flat. Among the candidates who shined was Marco Rubio who received high marks on his plans to rebuild the US military and defeat ISIS as well as a couple zingers at the expense of Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Barack Obama. He was however hammered hard by the other candidates and moderators about his stance on immigration reform. All in all, though he had one of his best nights and in my opinion won the debate.

The night however was not so friendly for Ted Cruz who attempted to fill the void left by Donald Trump. Instead he just became the target for everyone’s attacks and seemed at times to

whine that people were picking on him. He also seemed to lose the fights he picked with Marco Rubio and Rand Paul. Overall, my winner for the night was Marco Rubio followed by Rand Paul, Jeb Bush, and Donald Trump. My losers, in order for

best to worst were Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, and finally Ben Carson, who people forgot was even there during most of the debate. It was a good debate for the GOP and should provide the voters with the information necessary to determine who is the best candidate.



Left: logo from the GOP debate
Photo courtesy of Google Images

A Workout For Your Brain

By: Juliana Pater
Opinions Writer

Do you ever find your mind so jumbled with the ideas you heard in Core lecture, with the terms you have to memorize for your biology exam, and with the drama you heard in the hub at lunch? Sometimes it can really feel like there’s just not enough room for these things that a college student deals with in a day, a week, a month, or even a semester. I remember many times feeling so exhausted trying to balance between my academic life, my social life, and my professional life that I really had no time or room to devote to me, just me.

Well, if you have ever felt this way during your college career, then I just might have something to help you: meditation. Though it seems foreign, it is something that can be fit into your everyday schedule and has grown in popularity within the last 5 years. You don’t have to devote a huge amount of time to change the way your brain functions. In fact our brains are extremely malleable; they change all the time. This is called neuroplasticity. We have the ability to effectively change the way our brains handle anxiety and stress in our everyday lives. Even more, we can boost our creativity and improve our sleep patterns, as well as improve the relationships we have with our significant others, friends, and professors. I promise, you don’t have to be a superhero to change your own brain. In fact you, are able to start today, right now, wherever you are.

Meditation is an exercise of what scientists call mindfulness. Mindfulness is the intention to be present in the here and now, and to be fully engaged in what is happening around you. Meditation is one of the means by which you can achieve mindfulness. When you are in class, do you ever feel like you are drifting away from what is happening around you, maybe remembering a moment from the night before, or thinking about what you have to do in the next couple hours? Now let’s try something. Try to reel yourself back in and become aware of every noise around you, sometimes it helps to close your eyes to get away from the distractions in front of you. Now take some deep breaths, and feel the way your lungs let in the air, then let it out. Do it a few more times and feel your feet flat on the ground and try to relax every single muscle. Take a few more deep breaths. Now open you eyes, and how do you feel? Better? More content? More aware? This was the simple practice of mediation. It didn’t take long, but it allows your brain and your thoughts to just be. You can be anywhere and practice mindfulness, whether walking, running, standing, or sitting. It is about what works best for you.

And that’s the beauty of it. It can happen whenever and wherever you are. Make it your own. There are many ways in which you can find out more about meditation: online, books, videos, and apps. My favorite app is called Headspace, which offers you 10 free, narrated meditation sessions. Each session is 10 minutes long and allows you the opportunity to make some “head space.” I encourage you to try it out and see the effects for yourself. Maybe that extra head space will give you a way to not just get through your college years, but enjoy them.

Observer Staff

- ● ● ● ●

- Editors-in-Chief
Alyssa Cook
Kylie Hill
- News Editors
Casey Snow
Kylie Hill
- Opinion Editor
Katie Davisson
- Features Editors
Christina O’Connell
Jimmy Kile
- Sports Editors
Meghan Hennessey
Hannah Wallace
- Back Page Editor
Gloria Leonard
- Contributors
Cameron Adams
Josh D. Alengo
Madyson Anthony
Jose Arteaga
Kertney Brozyna
Joe Cain
Makayla Copeland
Natalie Dziadosz
Bryan Eurton
Megan Fernandez
Lauren Grasham
Juliana Pater
Justin Hays
Karen Gramjo
John Irak
Ana Lara
Christine Manika
Justin McGee
Vivian Meyers
Stephen Nickel
Steven Sewell
Jennie Weer
- Faculty
Facilitator
Dr. Charles M. Kerlin

We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

By Joe Cain
Features Writer

Whelp, *Star Wars* is back. After decades of pop culture dominance and a disappointing prequel trilogy, the galaxy far far away is back in the spotlight. Does it live up to the hype? Mostly, though not without a few caveats.

Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens takes place three decades after Luke Skywalker and company triumphed over the Galactic Empire. Now, a new evil has risen in the form of the First Order, a group of Empire revivalists spreading terror across the universe led by the masked dark Force user Kylo Ren.

From there, heroes rise, destinies start to fall into place, and a fun, rousing new space adventure begins, and I won't say much beyond that for the sake of spoilers.

The Force Awakens' greatest strength is probably its cast of the new characters who take up familiar, yet fresh roles.

Finn, a Stormtrooper who defects from the First Order after becoming disillusioned with their violent nature, is a fantastic every man and a peek behind the mask of one of the franchise's most iconic groups.

Rey, a young desert scavenger with a mysterious past and the new trilogy's chief protagonist, is a fantastic heroine who is sympathetic, compelling, and intimidated by the destiny laid out

before her.

Kylo Ren, the new villain, is a brilliant subversion of what pretty much every preview of the film has been trying to sell him as. Though I may get burned at the stake for saying so, he's a more compelling villain than Darth Vader ever was.

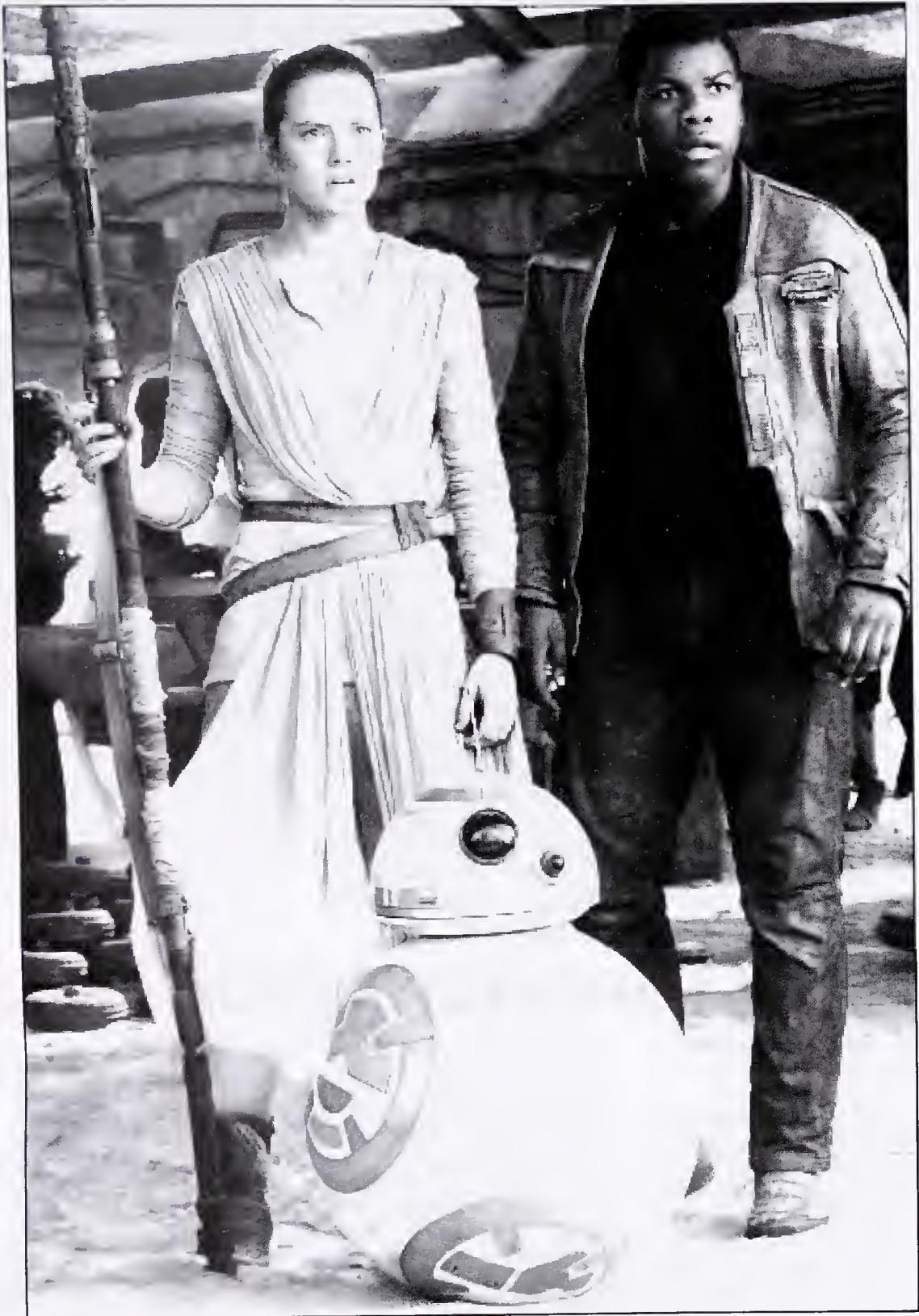
Despite all it does right, the movie still has two major problems.

The first is that, though it has great new characters and the story is obviously setting up for some new fresh ideas in later installments, *The Force Awakens* patterns itself after the original *Star Wars* a little too closely. It's not a deal breaker, but it sometimes feels like you're watching the same story just with new characters.

The second is a lack of exposition and a lack of worldbuilding.

The story takes place thirty years after the original films, but very little is done to establish what's happened between now and then. What's the political state of the galaxy after the fall of the Empire? Who are the First Order and where did they come from? None of these questions get answered, and it can be more than a little distracting, though these answers may come in episodes VIII and IX.

For better and for worse, *Star Wars* is truly back and I can't wait to see where this new story takes us.



Above: Rey (Daisy Ridley), Finn (John Boyega), and droid BB-8 on the planet Jakku. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Title

By Vivian Myers
Features Writer

Though it was a year ago, Meghan Trainor's latest album is still a huge success today. Epic Records released her album, *Title*, January 9th, 2015. There were a total of eleven songs produced on this album.

One of the eleven songs on *Title* is her extremely popular hit, "All About That Bass". While the song and its suggestive lyrics disgust many people, there are still many who believe that the only message Meghan was getting at is that you don't have to be pencil thin to be beautiful.

The song, through its possible stand in feminism, took many titles before it was done. 11 million copies were sold worldwide which grabbed its spot as the 4th best-selling song of 2014. It also became one of the best-selling singles of all time and was nominated for Song of The Year and Record of The Year. Though there is still much debate on the song's message, there is no way to skew the cold hard facts.

Another of her songs from *Title* is "Dear Future Husband." One side of the controversies is that Meghan has set extremely high and impossible standards for men. Her lyrics and her context and tone in the song does make it seem like the 'future husband' must do everything for her and it has to be perfect. But if we were to truly think about it, wouldn't we want the young girls of this

world to have high standards and practically impossible standards? Many people believe that the song's list of standards is something girls need to hear and expect in guys.

Many people believe that throughout the song, Meghan offers a true and honest response. Such lyrics as "You gotta know how to treat me like a lady, Even when I'm acting crazy, Tell me everything's alright" are seen as Meghan being honest with the 'future husband'. Of course, many people don't look at the flip side. These lyrics, "I'll be the perfect wife, Buying groceries, Buy-buying what you need" is her giving back.

Billboard reviewed *Title* as "It got by on balancing nostalgic girl-group and doo-wop sounds with hip-hop attitude and a positive, love-your-body moral." Spin reviewed "All About That Bass" as follows: "Perfection doesn't exist, so we might as well not beat ourselves up over our lack thereof... Unlike One Direction, she doesn't consider insecurity to be something that makes us beautiful, just something we all go through and she's happy to repeat that we shouldn't".

A total of 1,007,000 copies of *Title* were sold just in the United States. No matter what your opinion is, you have to agree that she must be empowering someone if she's sold that many copies.

This Star Won't Go Out

By Justice McGee
Features Writer

Have you read *The Fault in Our Stars*? If so, then you'll know that it's a heartbreaking love-story about the lives of two teenagers with similar and very tragic realities. Here's something you may not know; John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars* was actually inspired by a close friend of his, Esther Earl, who had passed away before the book was published.

I'm not normally for sad endings. I'm the type of person to steer clear of anything remotely sad. Though, some things can really draw me in. *This Star Won't Go Out* was one of those things. I used to spend the majority of my free periods in high school hanging out in the library. It was my favorite place. Toward the end of second semester, my senior year, I was scanning the library for something to read. I had just finished *The Fault in Our Stars*

so you can imagine the sting was still there.

There was this table I used to hit up first, it was the location of all of the new books our school had received. I saw this pretty thick book with a picture of a really pretty girl smiling on the cover. This really caught my attention because she had a nasal cannula (small tube that delivers oxygen to the nose from an external tank). So I picked up the book and read the brief summary; this is where I discovered that it was a book full of collected letters, journal entries, pictures, blog posts, and much more that she had written and taken herself. It was a memoir dedicated to Esther Earl that her family and friends, such as John Green, had spent months putting together. So I checked it out and began reading it. How could you not? I knew they dedicated it in her memory, so I knew it was going to make me cry. And it did, but something

about her made me want to get to know her. You can see it in the picture on the cover that she was full of life. So, I read the book and it was amazing. Esther Earl was given the short end of the stick. She wasn't as lucky as so many of us who take things for granted on a daily basis. Even so, she lived her life to the fullest. You could say she's an inspiration.

I definitely recommend you check out *This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl*. It could really change the way you view things. If you're anything like me, you let yourself get stressed out easily, and reading this book will change that because you'll see that no matter how bad things may get, there's always room for positivity. Esther was full of it.

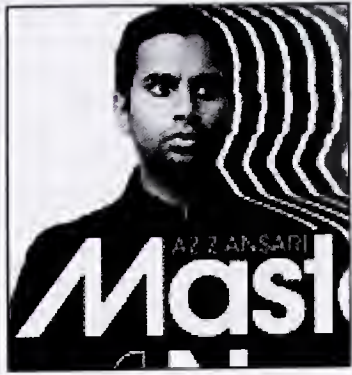
A Proper Welcoming into the Community

By Jennie Weer
Features Writer

Netflix is BOOMING! *Orange is the New Black*, *House of Cards*, *Making a Murderer*... what next? I'll tell you.

Master of None was created by Aziz Ansari and Alan Yang. Ansari is best known for his stand up comedy and the beloved, hilarious character Tom Haverford on *Parks and Recreation*.

The first season of *Master of None* show is nothing less than perfect. The ten short episodes consist of a sweet combination of comedy, drama, romance, and even a moral to the story for each episode. Sounds like a keeper to me. Aziz portrays an actor in New York, auditioning for everything from Home Depot commercials to a mad scientist. While Aziz is definitely the star of the show, the rest of the cast seems effortlessly flawless. Noel Wells plays the adorable love interest, who's just as weird and quirky as Aziz himself. Lena Waithe is the lesbian co-worker to Aziz, and gives relationship advice to his heterosexual character throughout the season. She's not just a part of this Netflix show, she also wrote for *Bones*. Another reappearing character is Arnold, played by Eric Wareheim. He's been a voice on *Bob's Burgers* and has made guest appearances on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. There's more people you'll



Above: Aziz Ansari in *Master of None*
Photo courtesy of Google Images

recognize as you laugh at one-liners and wonder how you've gone so long without watching this show. The last episode (no spoilers, promise) will have you feeling all the ways as you might be finding yourself wanting to be in the super realistic episode. Hardly any of the season isn't down to earth and relatable. Tip: Don't watch the first episode with your parents. At least the first five minutes. The title is "Plan B". In fact, there's a good amount of crude reality, which puts real life situations between these characters, making it all the more an attracting show.

How long does it take to watch *Master of None* in one night? You can do it. That's your answer. Coming from experience, you'll have a nice Treat yo-self night (shout-out to Tom Haverford).

By Justin Hays
Features Editor

For better and sometimes for worse, collegiate athletes are direct representatives of the colleges and universities they attend. Because of the widespread popularity of collegiate athletics, the actions of athletes on the field and off, can heavily contribute to the reputation of a university.

For instance, Butler University basketball player Gordon Hayward, put his university on the map with his heroic efforts leading the mid-major school to the NCAA Championship game in 2010. Suddenly, Butler University was a school known around the nation simply because of the accomplishments of its basketball team. On the flip side, collegiate athletes poorly representing their university on or off the field can detract from the school's reputation. With all of the benefits that come being a collegiate athlete, comes with the responsibility to positively represent one's school.

Being an athlete for Saint Joseph's College entails representing a school of the Catholic faith, and serving as an example of Catholic values, which are the foundation of Saint Joseph's College. Whether an individual athlete is a member of the Catholic Church or not, it is still his or her duty to properly represent the school and thus the Catholic values

which the school holds. The commissioning services done at Saint Joseph's College help to adequately prepare the college's athletes for their respective seasons of representing the school.

The commissioning services, provided by Campus Ministry, are held every year to help welcome the athletic teams to the Saint Joseph's College community. The service includes prayer, scripture reading, homily, anointing of hands with Saint Joseph's oil, and new athletes are given the medal of Saint Joseph's. This short ceremony blesses the teams for future competitions and helps integrate the teams into the Catholic community of the college. The official welcoming into the community helps the athletes feel a sense of duty to being an honorable representative of the school. Whether an athlete

belongs to the Catholic faith or not, this service is important to transitioning into the oncoming competitive season. Track athlete Brian Eurtion believes, "It helps me feel welcomed into the community while also helping me begin the season mentally and spiritually grounded."

While this service has been implemented for the athletic teams, Campus Ministry could potentially expand this service to clubs or other campus organizations that also serve as vital representatives of the college. Expanding the service could help ceremonially welcome other important members of the college and help bless them in their future pursuits in the name of the college. Regardless of who the service is for, it can serve as a nurturing welcome that helps grow a sense of pride and duty to being an ideal member of the Saint Joseph's College community.



Above: The 2016 Commissioning Service
Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

The Sword of Summer

Cameron Adams
Features Writer

He's done it again. Number one New York Times best-selling author, Rick Riordan has had undisputed success since 2006 with the debut of his critically acclaimed series, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* with *The Lightning Thief*. Since then it only has gotten better, with the release of the rest of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, *Heroes of Olympus* series, and the *Kane Chronicles* series. With his new book *The Sword of Summer*, which is the first book of the *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* series. Riordan has began the next great step in the great world of modern mythology.

The story itself has a more mature feel to it. The seemingly darker origin story of Magnus is a change to what people are used to. Also there seems to be a lot more description in the the violence and the use of cursing in it. The story features a good plot and natural opposition for Magnus, with lots of classic Riordan twists, turns, and surprises. The story

has the classic Riordan way of invoking a flurry of different emotions, excitement, sadness, and of course, laugh out loud humor.

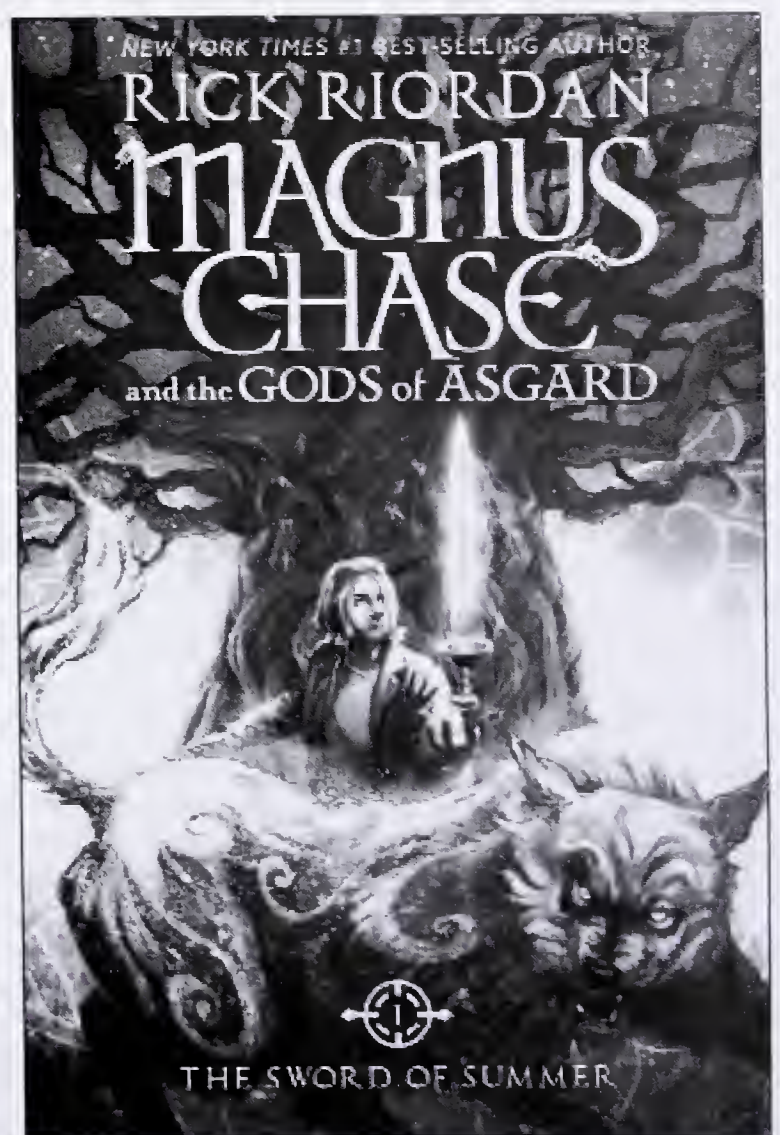
The main character Magnus Chase, who is related to a character that is well known, who is trying survive and stop those who are trying to start Ragnarok. His inevitable comparison to Percy Jackson is too be expected, but understandable. Their unbelievable sense of humor in the worst possible times are enticing, but Magnus seems to have a bit more raw sense of emotion that makes it easier for the reader to connect to. The other characters that are featured in the story are just as great. They are just as important to the story as Magnus is. The characters that are featured are diverse and unique. So each of them bring aspects that may seem unheard of, yet they work together in a way that makes them even more memorable to readers.

The most important feature about this book is that it provides a learning experience in a way that you will enjoy. Some people do not know much about Norse

mythology, other than what they have seen in the Marvel movies. Riordan allows us the same opportunity that he did with the Greco-Roman and Egyptian mythologies. He manages to teach the Norse myths with his own slight twists and interpretations.

All in all, this is a great book to read whether or not you are a fan of Rick Riordan. This book will leave you in a good mood and feeling great.

Right: Cover of *The Sword of Summer* by Percy Jackson author Rick Riordan. This is the first book of the *Magnus Chase* series.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.



Pumas Track and Field Breaking SJC Records

By Brian Eurton
Sports Writer

ALLENDALE, Mich. – The men and women’s track and field teams competed at the GVSU Mike Lints Alumni Open hosted by Grand Valley State University on Saturday January 30. This meet hosted over 900 athletes from 41 different teams. The men’s team placed 5th out of 23 teams, while the women place 15th. To some, this might not seem like impressive finishes, but when looking a little bit deeper into what kind of competition was at this meet it becomes apparent that these performances are very good as a whole. This is what Head Coach Bill Massoels had to say about the meet, “We competed well and are looking to improve our performances as we move into our next phase in training.”

To start the meet off for the men’s team was Phil Thompson who came in second in the triple jump for the Pumas with a leap of 46’6”. Thompson is coming off of a record-breaking performance at the University of Indianapolis where he set the school record in the triple jump with a massive leap of 48’3.25”. This mark places him at the top of the conference standings and 17th in the nation for Division II.

Continuing on the successful day was Sanjay Daley who placed 4th in the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.96. Again, Daley is coming off of a school record performance of his own just two weeks ago at Findlay University. His school record was set at an astonishing 6.92. This mark



*Pictured: Sanjay Daley
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland*

currently has him sitting at 2nd in the conference standings.

It is hard to believe, but there was again another record setting performance in the 3,000 meter run by Justin Hays. His time of 8:33.94 topped the previous record by almost four seconds. Hays came in 7th in the extremely competitive race. This is Hays’ third school record and his first indoor record. “Races like these are the result of thousands of miles of preparation and having a great coach in Bill Massoels and a great training partner in Brian Eurton,” Hays says about his performance.

Other notable performance on the men’s team came from Brian Eurton who placed 5th in the mile in a time of 4:17.28, which was a two second personal best. Damar Malcolm placed 5th in the 200 meter and 7th in the 400-meter

dash with times of 22.48 and 49.63. Tevin Riddle and CJ Eikum placed 6th and 7th respectively in the high jump, both jumpers leap 6’2”. Eikum also placed 7th in the triple jump with a jump of 43’9.25”. Another huge collegiate best came from Jace Horner who won his heat of the 800-meter run in a time of 2:02.53.

On the women’s side there were many personal best and great performances all around. Due to injury there were several women that were not able to compete in this meet, but the Lady Pumas did not let that stop them from competing to their fullest capabilities and being very competitive in all of their events.

Marlaina Boggs was the top finisher for the Lady Pumas in the shot put. She propelled the shot 36’2”, which is her best throw by almost three feet.

Continuing on the field events, Heather Monk had the second best performance of her career in the weight throw where she heaved the weight 51’9”. For the jumps Leanna Knight placed 8th in long jump, Allison Zimmerle placed 9th in high jump (only a quarter inch off of her personal best) and Lydia Raderstorf had a top ten finish in triple jump.

The running events were paced by several personal bests. Nikki Thiede started the trend with a 5:25.39, which is six seconds faster than ever before. The 3,000 meter run was also a place of personal bests for the Lady Pumas. The women ran the race and three personal bests were produced by Brooke Werstler (11:04.23) Hannah Wallace (11:26.54) and Meghan Hennessey (11:34.64).

The notable sprinting performances were produced by Alex Meier who placed 3rd in her heat of the 400 meter dash with

Upcoming Events

February 4th
Women’s Basketball v. Truman State University
5:30 pm

Men’s Basketball v. Truman State University 7:30 pm

February 5th
Men’s & Women’s Track and Field at Wide Track Classic in Hillsdale, MI

February 6th
Men’s & Women’s Track and Field at Wide Track Classic in Hillsdale, MI

Women’s Basketball vs. Quincy University 1:00 pm

Men’s Basketball vs. Quincy Univeristy 3:00 pm

February 11th
Women’s Basketball vs. William Jewell College 5:30 pm

Men’s Basketball vs. William Jewell College 7:30 pm

February 12th
Men’s & Women’s Track and Field at Big Meet in Allendale, MI

February 13th
Men’s & Women’s Track and Field at Big Meet in Allendale, MI

Men’s & Women’s Tennis at Calumet College of St. Joseph’s

Women’s Basketball vs. Rockhurst Univeristy 1:00pm

Men’s Basketball vs. Rockhurst University 3:00 pm

a time of 1:04.02, Kassidy West who sprinted to personal best in both the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes who ran times times of 8.27 and 28.29 respectively.

The Pumas will be back in action next week in Hillsdale, Michigan for the Wide Track Classic. Many personal bests are sure to come!

Men’s Basketball Faces University of Illinois-Springfield

By Madyson Anthony
Sports Writer

The Saint Joseph’s College men’s basketball team is currently 9-11 and 4-6 GLVC. During their last home game against the University of Illinois-Springfield, the team struggled to pull out a win despite their best efforts and lost 106-92. Freshman Davious Webster accomplished a career high of 32 points and sophomore Davone Daniels, the Pumas’ leading scorer with 11.3 points per game, came off the bench with 17 points. The Pumas had a strong 24-12 lead in the beginning of the first half and Webster and Daniels were alone responsible for 21 of those points within the first 11 minutes of the game. However UIS, who is 2-7 GLVC, made a comeback ultimately ending the half with a 48-38 lead. The Prairie Stars also ended the half with a 51% field goal percentage. Going into halftime, Daniels stated that he wanted to help his team by being more active on defense and also by talking more and staying

focused on his tasks. Daniels claims, “Basketball is just a game of runs.” By minimizing UIS’s runs, he hoped to help lead his team to victory in the second half. Within the first six minutes of the second half, UIS established a 20 point lead and led by 30 points before the Pumas retaliated. With a little over three minutes left in the second half, Webster hit a three which put the Pumas behind 95-77. Webster then hit another three with a minute left in the half which got the Pumas to 102-90 before a series of foul shootings from UIS ended the game.

Webster and Daniels were the only two Pumas to reach double digits in points and freshman Chris Nunn also came off the bench with nine points and seven assists. The Pumas ended the game with 17 turnovers and shot 47%.

The Pumas’ next game will be home on Thursday, February 4th against Truman State University at 7:30 PM and Daniels plans to lead his teammates to victory by continuing to have a focused mindset and concentrating on his job.



*Pictured: Davone Daniels and Jordan Seele
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland*

Baseball Preseason

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

This season for Puma Baseball, the team plans to work hard, play hard, and aim high. The team's strategy is to come back stronger, especially since this is a young team. One of the benefits of having a young team is building them up towards the future. Some people may think having a young team is risky; some players may not be at the same skill level as others. Well junior infielder Riley Benner thinks otherwise. Benner said, "We have some young guys that will definitely make an impact right away." The Pumas are hungry for victory and Benner believes anything is possible.

Last season, Benner played in all 47 games and started 46 of those games. Some of last seasons' highlights from him included a .314 batting average, 12 multi-hit games, and Second Team All-GLVC. Overall, the Pumas' season stats were 24 wins, 22 losses, and 1 tie.

In order to improve from last season, the Pumas are putting in

the work during preseason. This weather is not ideal baseball whether, so the Pumas are gearing up for the season indoors. "Since we're inside, we're kind of limited with what we can do as far as making things 'game-like.' The closest we get to a game situation right now is hitting off our pitches in the cages," said Benner.

Not only are the Pumas in the cages, their main priority right now is team defense. Team defense is important because the team has to be on the same page. They have to be ready for any type of defensive situation whether its foul balls or wild pitches.

Some players will be playing different roles than before. Preseason is a perfect time to "play around" with the players to see what other positions would work for them if they are needed. It's a talent to be able to play more than one position. The player becomes more versatile. With

that being said, Benner thinks "everyone will succeed in their new roles. We have a lot of talent on the team."

There is always a goal or two that teams are working towards. This season, the Pumas' goal is to win a national championship. This is not a complicated goal according to Benner. He believes that if the team takes it one game at a time and play to it's fullest potential, then he doesn't see any reason why they can't do it. Sounds like this season is going to be a big hit! It is going to be exciting to see where this team will go.



Pictured: Riley Benner
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Softball Preseason

By Makayla Copeland
Sports Writer

The 2015-2016 season for the Lady Pumas Softball team is just around the corner. Once the first game starts there is nothing stopping the team to get into the GLVC tournament. The Lady Pumas have a strong senior class returning one last time along with other key returning players. The Spring season is not one set to start officially until February 20th at Westfield Indiana where the team will travel to play Saint Mary's College. Even though there is still time until the first game, the ladies have been preparing for this season since December.

"As a whole we have all put in work from conditioning, lifting, getting extra hitting, fielding, and pitching. We have also been working on our mental game because softball is more than just physical," said senior Morgan Akre.

The Pumas have a full schedule ahead after the first game the team is set to travel to Duncan, South Carolina and Clermont, Florida. The previous years the team did not make it to South Carolina due to weather but in Florida the team went 5-3 on the spring break trip. This year is a new year and the Pumas are determined to be a top contender during the week.

"I am excited for the opportunity to travel. I am excited to face competition that will challenge me as a player and help me grow and improve my game," said Freshman Zallyah Johnson.

Audra Rains took the head coaching position after former Coach Diane Stevens announced retirement. Coach Rains was a former Puma herself as she graduated in 2014. Alongside Coach Rains is

former University of Indianapolis softball player Casey Williamson who graduated in 2015.

"Even though she (Coach Rains) is young she makes sure everyone is held accountable for their actions and makes everyone work 110%. Coach Williamson keeps things light hearted and has really helped the outfield improve on crucial details," said sophomore Sammie Miller.

Earlier in the week of January 25th the official GLVC released the results of the preseason poll where head coaches vote for who they will predict the ranking in the conference. Saint Joe Pumas were ranked 12th overall in the conference. A key player for the Pumas this year is junior Bri Wagner. Last year, Wagner had a .397 batting average and was selected All-GLVC second team.

"It will be different from last year because our team is very young. We may struggle with some lack of experience but I think with the positivity of the new coaches we will be able to compete at the level we need to," said Wagner.

As the Lady Pumas prepare for February 20th, Coach Rains says the team has been working on the fundamentals of the game. Coach Rains' main goal is to really have the team thrive as players, students, and people.

"The team is working extremely hard and is extremely focused. Right now the team is working on fundamentals, physical conditioning, and the mental aspect of the game. Our team is full of driven women who have high expectations for themselves and each other," said head coach Audra Rains.



Pictured: SJC Softball team
Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

Preseason Tennis

By Megan Fernandez
Sports Writer

Let the preparation for the 2016 Men and Women's tennis season begin. Conditioning has started up for the men's and women's tennis teams. Both teams had holes during their non-championship season four months ago. In the non-championship season both Men and Women's tennis teams didn't have enough players for all their meets and so the team would either take a four fit or would begin the meets points down. But now the team has new players to fill in those holes and help bring in their talents to help improve the team to reach some of their upcoming season goals.

The GLVC Men's Tennis Preseason Poll was voted on by the league head coaches and ranks seven teams. The East division preseason poll has Saint Joseph's College ranked seventh with 27 points. The men's team had a record of 6-6 last season, but are

hoping to have a winning record this season. The team lost two upperclassmen from last season, Danny James and Adam Meeker. But the men's roster is constantly changing. This semester the team brought in two new foreign players, Valentin Meier and Moritz Gisy. Both are freshman from Germany. Valentin only had positive things to say about Saint Joe's tennis team. "I have nice teammates who can help me improve my tennis," says Valentin. The team is also very eager to have the new players on the team, "Having two new players with great experience on the team can really help us do well this year." Says sophomore Sam Shammas. A tough challenge that faces the men's team is having one of the hardest conferences in the nation. With a tough schedule this year the team will be forced to stay competitive and hard at work. "My goal for the season is to get better as a

player and the team is to make it to the NCAA tournament", says Freshman Moritz Gisy.

The GLVC women's tennis preseason poll was announced for the east division, Saint Joe's was ranked seventh. The women's team are looking to improve from their 1-10 record. The women's team also gained a new foreign player, freshman Assya Trimari. Assya is from New Caledonia and will not be playing this year but is practicing with the team to stay in shape for next season. "I really like the girls on the team. For right now I am just concentrating on my studies and practicing and getting better for next season". The girls hope to move up in the ranks this year and get better a better record.

The team is still practicing inside and will be moving outside when the weather gets warmer. The men's team will begin competing against Saint Joseph Calumet at Whiting for an indoor meet. The women's team will also

the back page

Creative Corner



Oil Painting by Katie Davisson

Junior and Sue
By Gloria Michelle Leonard

She would order for the both of them—
Chicken strips for him and a salad for her.
As I rung them up, he'd be filling her drink:
A Coke, light ice.

My eyes followed them to the booth by the window
He walked with a cane but always pulled out her chair.
They spoke softly, but their smiles were wide.
As I made their order, I fantasized.

Oh, to find a love like Junior and Sue!
Doing whatever it is old couples do.
Coffee in the morning, light reading at night,
Lunch with friends and small play fights.

Oh, to have a love that keeps you young!
Wrinkled skin, but they eyes remain the same.
From newlyweds, to parents, to grandparents,
A lifetime together, until one day...

She ordered a salad and fidgeted with her wallet
I wrung her up—no cane in sight.
I met her eyes and noticed they'd changed.
I thought they looked grayer—dulled with age.

She walked toward "their" booth and pulled out her chair
Sat down and proceeded to talk to thin air.
Her face held a sad smile and she let out a sigh
I realized no amount of time prepares you for "goodbye."

Oh, to have a love like Junior and Sue!
Decades of memories shared between the two.
A lifetime of Good Mornings, Good Nights, and sweet kisses,
It's the company of her best friend that she misses.

Welcome back, Pumas!
Would you like to have
your poems, short stories,
or works of art published
on the Creative Corner?
All you have to do is
send your submissions
to glv9696@saintjoe.edu
and wait for an upcoming
issue to see your work
displayed!

Love is a Messy Business
By Katie Davisson

It's there, in your hand
You're holding it and you don't even know
It beats, expanding and constricting,
the rate doesn't slow.

There it is, dripping red
Getting you all messy and ruining your clothes
I'd take it back, but I can't
There's nowhere for it to go.

Living Silently
By Kertney Brozyna

Living without a voice
is harder than one might think.

No knowing what is right
And what is unacceptable.

The only way to get angry in this place
Is to live completely silently.

There is no yelling back,
No throwing punches.

Only hoping for silence
On the other end of the line.

Hoping for no raging voices
Spitting in your face.

Hoping they stop.
Living Silently.

Oil Painting by Ashley Brinkman

